

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANILA 06048 071035Z

43

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

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R 070909Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3072

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, RP

SUBJECT: ACQUINO LINKED TO 1970 RAID ON PHILIPPINE MILITARY
ACADEMY

REF: MANILA 5360 AND 5399

DURING MAY 6 PERPETUATION OF TESTIMONY HEARINGS, FORMER NEW PEOPLE'S ARMY LIQUIDATION SQUAD COMMANDER PUSA (BENJAMIN SANGUYA) TESTIFIED THAT FORMER SENATOR AQUINO HAD NOT ONLY SUPPLIED GUNS AND AMMUNITION ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS TO THE NPA UNITS IN TARLAC PROVINCE IN 1971 BUT HE HAD ALSO KNOWN BEFOREHAND OF DEC. 29, 1970, NPA RAID ON PMA ARMORY. DURING CROSS EXAMINATION SANGUYO TOLD TRIBUNAL THAT AQUINO GAVE HIM 500 PESOS TO PAY RENTAL ON CAR USED IN TRANSPORTING GROUP TO BAGUIO IN PREPARATION FOR PMA RAID. SANGUYO ALSO RELATED AQUINO INSTRUCTIONS TO LIQUIDATE SIND PONCE ENRILE AND FORMER REPRESENTATIVE EDUARDO COJUANGCO. AQUINO HIMSELF WAS NOT PRESENT AT MAY 6 PROCEEDINGS AS HE WAS ADMITTED TO INTENSIVE CARE UNIT VETERANS MEMORIAL HOSPITAL WITH SLIGHT FEVER AND CHILLS THE DAY BEFORE. IT'S UNCLEAR WHETHER ACQUINO'S SYMPTOMS ARE RELATED TO HIS HUNGER STRIKE, NOW IN ITS 32ND DAY.

COMMENT: MAY 6 TESTIMONY BY PUSA CONTINUES GOVERNMENT CASE
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AGAINST AQUINO IN MUCH THE SAME VEIN AS PREVIOUS DAYS' TESTI-

MONEY. LINKAGE OF AQUINO TO NPA ACTIVITIES IN HIS HOME AREA
NOTHING NEW AND HAS BEEN PART OF CONSISTENT GOVERNMENT PLAN
TO DISCREDIT AQUINO OVER PAST MONTHS' JUDICIAL SKIRMISHING.
THE CONTENT OF THE PERPETUATION OF TESTIMONY HEARINGS HAS
BEEN WIDELY PUBLICIZED. HOWEVER, PUBLIC REACTION AS MUCH AS
IT FOCUSES ON AQUINO CASE IS RATHER CYNICAL, REALIZING THAT
MAJOR THRUST BEHIND GOVERNMENT ACTION IS NOT DISCOVERY OF TRUTH
OR FALSITY OF CHARGES BUT RATHER NEUTRALIZATION OF AQUINO AS
POLITICAL FIGURE.
SULLIVAN

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Message Attributes

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